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Sen. Rodríguez statement on the budget

Austin - Sen. José Rodríguez released the following statement on H.B. 1, the budget:

While I voted for this budget, I did so with misgivings. I believe deeply in the process, and in something that is bigger than our current partisan divides, the institution of the Legislature, and the democratic system it represents. The budget is the only bill we absolutely have to pass, and it represents the combined efforts of the entire Legislature, and thousands of hours of staff time. It allows us to keep government moving, and that includes funding for important local priorities.

With that, we missed important opportunities on education, continuing to support what has been ruled to be an unconstitutional school funding system, and health care, pursuing neither a "Texas Way" nor any other option to expand access to affordable care. We threw \$800 million at an expansion of DPS in both size and scope without providing for oversight or accountability, and we did so on the misguided and offensive premise that federal border enforcement and local law enforcement are not effectively doing their jobs.

Among the key items for District 29:

- \$30 million to military cities
- \$3.5 million for the Franklin Mountains State Park visitors center.
- About \$7 million for the University of Texas at El Paso Pharmacy Program.
- Tuition Revenue Bonds: \$70 million for UTEP; \$75.5 million for TTUHSC.
- \$1.7 million for the Center for International Intelligent Transportation in El Paso, part of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute.
- More than \$3 million for the Eighth District Court of Appeals

José Rodríguez represents Texas Senate District 29, which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, and Presidio. He represents both urban and rural constituencies, and more than 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico border. Senator Rodríguez currently serves as the Chairman of the Senate Hispanic Caucus, and is a member of the Senate Committees on Education; Health and Human Services; Veteran Affairs and Military Installations; Nominations; and Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs.

